Himalayan glaciers

†1863. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts are giving different statements on melting of Himalayan glaciers;

(b) whether there is any dispute over this Ministry's report; and

(c) the plan to present a reliable report in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Different findings are reported relating to melting of Himalayan glaciers. According to Report of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released in April 2007, indicate that the Himalayan glaciers are receding faster than any part of the world.

Whereas the studies carried out by Geological Survey of India the majority of Himalayan glaciers are passing through a phase of recession, which is a worldwide phenomenon. The recession of glaciers is a part of the natural cyclic process of changes in size and other attributes of the glaciers. These changes could be attributed to various reasons including global warming.

Long-term comprehensive studies are required in order to conclusively establish the impact of global warming on recession of glaciers in Himalayan region.

Climate change funding

1864. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the countries like USA and European Union are trying to scuttle the Kyoto Protocol mechanism with a World Bank type institution to manage climate change funding;

(b) if so, whether Government has voiced its concern at the international platform;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) An Adaptation Fund Board has been set up with resources generated from Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol to finance activities for adaptation to climate change in developing countries. Negotiations are currently underway under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to reach agreed outcome on various elements of the Bali Action Plan including mechanism for financing the mitigation and adaptation actions in the developing countries. Proposals have been made by several Annex I countries including the US and EU which are currently under discussion. India has argued for a financial mechanism accountable to and under the governance of the parties

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.